

THE COURIER

VOL. XXIV, NO. 2 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ACADEMY, BROOKLYN, N. Y. DECEMBER 22, 1958

Xavierites To Entertain In Christmas Pageant



Rehearsing their roles: Margaret Giordano, Madeline Falcone, Maureen Gallagher, Miriam Blake, and Barbara Bronkhurst prepare for play.

The St. Francis' Christmas spirit will reach its peak when the Xavierites attend the Christmas program presented by the senior classes. It will be held in the auditorium of St. Francis Xavier grammar school the morning of Dec. 23.

The accelerated 4A³ will stage the play titled, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Eleanor Yurelich, Patricia Sepsie, Rosemary Coghlan and Irene Galligan will have the leading

roles.

The other senior classes, 4A¹ and 4A² will delight the hearts and ears of all with a selection of Christmas Carols including, "Silent Night," "Deck the Halls," "O Come All Ye Faithful," and others.

As a conclusion to the program, they will assemble in front of Samaritan Hospital on President Street where they will give a special rendition for the patients.

News Bulletins

Thursday the Glee Club of St. Francis carried out the tradition of caroling for the Home for the Aged, conducted by the Little Sisters of the Poor. The selections sung included: "Silent Night", "Jingle Bells", and other standard Christmas carols. After entertaining the elderly ladies and gentlemen who are able to be up and around, the senior members endeavored to bring a little cheer to the aged confined to the infirmary.

Cheer the "Oldsters"...

Twenty juniors who are especially interested in science availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the Nuclear Energy Exhibit at St. Joseph's College for Women, the week of Nov. 11 to 18.

The Atomic Energy Commission transported this exhibit to Brooklyn, hoping to interest more people in the study of science. On the third floor where the exhibit was displayed, nuclear energy was explained in the terms of the layman by the use of simplified pictures and diagrams.

Les Petits Chanteurs...

Thirty Xavierites accompanied by seven faculty members attended a special Christmas Concert of the "Little Singers of Paris" at the Academy of Music Saturday afternoon, Dec. 6.

Spirit of Giving...

The spirit of giving at Christmas time was manifested by the generous contributions of the Xavierites. Fifteen car-

Underclassmen Cop Ribticklers' Prizes

The humorist who won first prize in *The Courier's* first humor contest is Marion Boden, a junior from room 106. The witty runner-ups in order are Ann Marie Guida, an accelerated junior from room 3, Margaret McCaffrey, a sophomore from room 102, and a frosh, Lorraine Grocki, from room 306.

The enthusiasm of the girls helped to make the contest a grand success. With their thoughts high and their pens low, Xavierites proved their willingness and ability to handle any difficult situation that might arise in an amusing manner.

The editors, who judged the contest, agree that all the entries were excellent and thank all who participated.

The literary endeavors of the future "Leacocks" and "Skinners" may be read on page 3.

Requiescat In Pace

The faculty and students of Saint Francis Xavier Academy offer their prayers for the late Most Reverend Edmund J. Reilly, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn and pastor of Our Lady of Angels Church.

Bishop Reilly died suddenly of a heart attack on All Souls Day only a few hours after he had offered a Pontifical Mass for the release of the Holy Souls.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

tons of canned fruit were packed and sent to the Home for the Aged at Sixteenth Street and Eighth Avenue, Brooklyn.

Dress Dolls...

Xavierites assumed the roles of seamstresses for the holidays as they diligently labored to clothe 150 dolls.

Visit Girard Exhibit...

The Academy's Art Club visited the exhibition of Andre Girard's paintings at St. Joseph's College for Women, Oct. 15. Sisters Henry Maria and Grace Virginia accompanied the group.

A Christmas Message

Long ago in a little town of Bethlehem, an Infant came to earth bringing an eternal message, "Peace on earth to men of good will..." Today we need to prepare for that coming of the Christ Child. For Christmas the world over—torn by tension and conflict—we would do well to remind ourselves of the real meaning of this feast. But for Catholics, this great holyday has a deeper significance. The pealing of the organ's "Silent Night" recalls that Christ has come to earth again and at that solemn moment of our union with Him in the reception of Holy Communion, we may well think, "Christ the Saviour is Born".

The note of solemnity prefaces the gaiety shared in our homes with those we love, and gives a ring of joy and contentment that makes the holyday unforgettable. For truly this is Christ's birthday and consequently it is associated with gifts. Our gift to you is the sincere prayer that Christmas 1958 will grow richer for you and all those near and dear to you as you grow in your nearness to Christ.

Sister Agnes Winifred and Faculty

Seniors Triumph in Daily News Contest



Enjoying another winner's essay: Alberta Van Valen and Frances Minichiello discuss this week's bit of youthful journalism.

Alberta Van Valen and Frances Minichiello, two seniors from Saint Francis Xavier Academy who won the Voice of Youth contest sponsored by the "Daily News," on Nov. 2, and Nov. 16, respectively, have certainly been the cause for chatter during the past few weeks.

Alberta, the first student from a Catholic school to win, originally wrote her essay "Why I Want to Go to College" as part of a scholarship examination. Fran modestly calls her inspiration a "brainstorm."

Both girls are completely unspoiled by the fame that has been theirs. They have good scholastic standings and both participate in extra-curricular activities. Frances is president of the senior class, co-captain of the Varsity and plays the violin in the school orchestra. Alberta is a member of the distinguished Leo Honor Society, yearbook staff, and sings in the Glee Club.

Asked what was her reaction when she found out that she had won, Alberta replied, "As I entered the house and saw everyone standing there, quietly

staring, I knew that something was going on, 'Alberta, you've won the News' Youth contest', my mother said." Alberta remembers acting like a "doubting Thomas", but within a few minutes she realized that her mother wasn't joking.

"What did I do with the \$25. prize I received?" "Why, I spent it on my Ring Day outfit. It was especially welcome since Thanksgiving was the following day."

Alberta's plans for the future are in the field of science.

Asked how she reacted when she heard that the "News" had honored her, Fran said that she just couldn't believe it. Since her triumph she has frequently been recognized on the street and has received several letters of congratulations commenting on her touching essay. "I guess Sheepshead Bay will be on the map now", said Fran. "With the twenty-five dollars, I'm taking a 'How to Play Basketball' course, of course."

Frances is undecided as to her future. She's not sure if it will be nursing or teaching.

Time alone will determine the future of these celebrities.



The Most Precious Gift

Together they came, both the lowly and the mighty to pay homage to their newly born Saviour. With them they brought gifts as proof of their adoration.

The gifts of the three Wise Men were costly—gold, frankincense and myrrh. Those of the shepherds were simple—lambs from their flocks and whatever small possessions they could spare. But, the most precious gift of all was that they gave in common, the offering of their love and devotion. Though the Holy Babe was pleased with their earthly offerings, he must have been overjoyed to see both the rich and the poor offering one gift that was the same, a loving and humble heart.

The King of Kings asks so very little of us in proportion to what He has given us. He does not desire costly presents, but instead, He longs to receive from each one of us, a pure and loving heart beautified by sacrifice.

On His birthday, let us be ready to offer Him the loving heart that He desires. Also, let it be filled to overflowing with the graces we have earned by the sacrifices we have made for Him.

How wonderful it will be on Christmas Day to present the Holy Infant with the beautiful gift we have prepared, knowing full well, as did those first adorers, that He is pleased with our offering. Indeed, there will be "Peace on Earth" . . .

Restore Christ to Christmas

In a few days, we will celebrate the solemn and holy feast of Christmas. On that day the four weeks of Advent will culminate in the greatest event in history—the birth of Jesus Christ, the God-man. To devout Catholics, the full spirit and meaning will be apparent. But to countless others, perhaps ourselves included, it will be merely *another* Christmas. We are already aware of the worldly attitude which has dominated this holy day. Scarcely has October arrived when holly wreaths and mistletoe burst into bloom. Santa Claus' flourish at regular intervals on every street. Christmas is reduced to a profit and loss basis and we begin to bestow gifts through custom instead of love.

We must continually strive to impress upon ourselves the truth about Christmas. It is first and foremost, the birthday of Our Lord and Saviour. It is a joyful feast and a time for giving. It is not and never will be *just* another day. Every Catholic has the responsibility to restore Christ to Christmas. Our attitude can change the present indifference to real fervor and devotion.

Hepzibah's Hints

Dear Hepzi,

With the usual rush of Holiday parties coming up, I've been pretty busy creating a suitable outfit guaranteed to send my present dreamboat way out into outer space. I'm practically settled on a black and pink polka dotted satin sheath (for the ultra "dressy" element), red and green striped leotards (for a gay festive air) and a white band for my hair. My mother, however, thinks that this outfit is far too extreme and insists that I tone it down a bit. Please advise.

Conservative Cora

Dear Cora,

As usual, honey, mother knows best. Your suggested outfit does sound a bit too "way out" for the present Holiday season. The white headband should definitely be left home in the drawer.

Hepzi

Dear Hepzi,

I'm madly in love with the check-out boy in the A. & P. I pass the store eight times a day and am always sure of receiving a smile which I naturally return. My problem is this, Hepzibah. If this "Teen Age Angel" continues to smile at me would it be proper for me to give him a Christmas present. If so, what type of gift do you recommend.

Delerious Donna

Dear Donna,

Considering your extreme affection for this grocery counter Casanova, I think it would be perfectly all right for you to give him a gift. After the rigorous physical exercise of smiling regularly eight times a day for eight weeks, I think a jar of "Happy Hepzi's Helpful Muscle Rejuvenator" (ready gift wrapped) would be a thoughtful and appropriate present.

Hepzi

Dear Hepzibah,

You must help me for I'm at my wits end. I've been meaning to go on a strict diet for about a year now, but somehow, it kept slipping my mind. Now, that Christmas is almost here, I'm nearly frantic because I was scheduled to play an elf in the school play. I've been told, however, that I just don't fit the part (the costume doesn't fit me). Please, please, can you tell me how to lose 40 lbs. by Christmas and solve my problem.

Georgette

Dear Georgette,

Try a hacksaw or switch to the Santa Claus role.

Hepzi

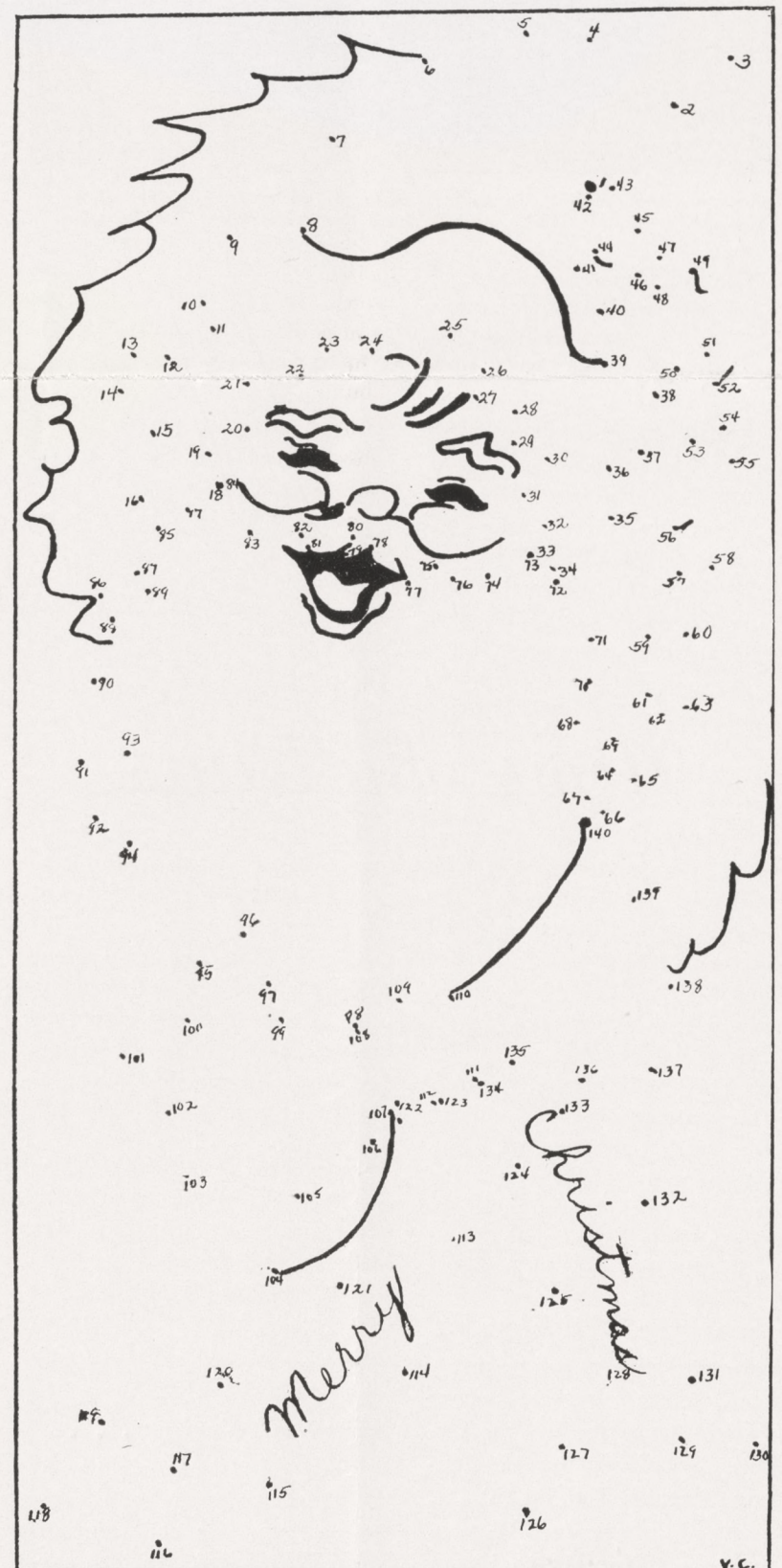
Pope John XXIII

"Accepto," a seven letter word humbly said, marked the beginning of the reign of our new Visible Head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope John XXIII. With this small word, meaningless in itself, Angelo Cardinal Roncalli not only accepted the titles bestowed upon the Vicar of Christ, but also the mounting problems plaguing the Catholic Church and the world today.

In the two short months since his election by the Sacred College of Cardinals, the world has been put on edge through devious Communist maneuvering. This is not only a problem of government, but also of a Pope new to his work and anxious to keep his flock under Divine guidance.

As members of that flock, we have pledged our "loyal and unfailing obedience." We wish now to pledge our prayers in the sincere hope that they will strengthen the Pope in his everlasting battle with evil.

You Too Can Be An Artist



The Christmas Story

by Maureen Mangan

The road had been long and
the travelers weary,
So they stopped at an inn,
warm, cozy and cheery.

"Sorry, no room," cried the
ancient landlord,
"But a stable's out back if
you've nowhere to board."

Near the same small town on a
little grass hill
Lay shepherds with flocks in
the night calm and still.
The angels' song brought glad
tidings to them
When told of the Birth in Beth-
lehem.

Mary tenderly wrapped her
sweet little ward
In swaddling clothes not befit-
ting a lord.
And laying Him gently into
His bed
She rocked His cradle and
smoothed His head.

While from the East with the
help of a star
Came three Wise Men who had
followed it far.
And laying their gifts at the
little King's feet
They worshipped the Infant so
tender and sweet.

As Christmas time once again
comes around,
Our hearts with fervor and
gladness abound,
Then humbly and gratefully let
all men recall
That a tiny Babe is Saviour to
all.

Marked Freshmen

by Lorraine Grochi

On a trip to the cafeteria,
using the back stairs, three im-
petuous freshmen encountered
what at the time seemed to be
a large dark room. As these
buoyant young ladies ap-
proached it, curiosity over-
powered the will and after
little debate and discussion, the
naughty trio went in. At first,
they literally remained in the
dark as to the purpose of the
room, but after seeing a pro-
jector, boxes of film, etc., they
finally came to the logical con-
clusion that it was the photog-
raphy dark room.

As they were about to leave,
a bell rang. One of these

How to Be A Grouch

by Ann Marie Guida

Just follow these simple steps
and you will find yourself
scratched off a number of
Christmas lists.

1. Make sure you roll out
of bed on the wrong side each
gloomy morn.

2. Gulp down a cold cup of
black coffee. Make sure you
take no sugar. This tends to
sweeten the disposition which
is highly irregular.

3. If at any time during the
day you feel a smile coming on,
take one glass of lemon juice,
(pits and all.)

Of course if lemons are out
of season and one feels a smile
creeping up take a quick look
in the mirror. This should
bring a frown to your face in-
stantly.

4. Avoid all cheery "good
mornings." If you are unable
to avoid all these "good
mornings", simply groan and
hurry on. (Caution: "good
mornings" are dangerous and
may be catching.)

5. Conduct on Trains—Get
the first seat, if physically pos-
sible. Never soften under the
pathetic look of an old lady.
Keep reminding yourself that
you are a true GROUCH when
you are tempted to be
courteous.

6. In school do only what is
absolutely required and try
hard not to be polite.

7. For dinner devour enough
food to give you insomnia.
This will prepare you for an-
other grouchy day.

8. Each night, crawling
under the bed, make a firm
amendment to be as mean and
grouchy as possible no matter
how good the conditions.

9. Keep this always as your
motto:

"A long face shortens your
list of friends."

quickwitted students was of the
opinion that the bell had been
a burglar alarm of some sort.
As the three left at a rather
rapid pace (which may be
termed "flying") one turned to
her two companions and ex-
claimed, "We're criminals and
will be marked for the rest of
our high school days."

Leave It to Junior

by Marion Boden

You say, Junie, you woke
up this morning and found
your eyes so full of sand you
couldn't pry them open? Then
you couldn't find your school
hat? You spilled coffee all
over your uniform and you had
to wear your sophomore jumper
to school? You made an early
bus, but got a late slip? Is
that what's bothering you,
girlie? Well, I don't blame
you. To think your day had
hardly begun. On second
thought, don't think about it.
Make a second start.

As you were walking into
your official class, thankful
that you arrived this far in
one piece, you lost control of
your loose leaf binder, thus ex-
hibiting your terrific chemistry
marks. Is that what's troubl-
ing you? Well, you are
graceful!

Well, congratulations, the
lunch bell has rung. Cheer up,
you're halfway through the
day. You say you forgot your
lunch and the only thing the
cafeteria had that YOU liked
were caramels? You bought
twenty-five cents worth and
ended up minus your four fill-
ings? Your heels got caught in
the stairs and you found your-
self reaching bottom mighty
fast? Well, at least you didn't
miss a step. Your bruised
bones assure you that you hit
every one of them. What's
that? You forgot to bring
down the wastebasket, and by
the seventh period the room
had to be evacuated? You
finally got an old gas mask and
entered the room? Not only
that, but you have four more
days for forgetting to empty
the basket. Say, ever hear of
retribution?

Oh! lucky you. Monday is
choral. At least now you're
safe. Or are you? You forgot
that you were an alto and be-
gan singing soprano. When
professor told the girl with
the stringy black hair to stop
singing, you didn't because you
didn't know what your own
hairdo looked like, but every-
one else stopped. It was only
after 800 eyes were glued on
you that you realized your
hair looked a mess and it was
YOU who were singing the
wrong part.

Well, lucky you. You finally
have been dismissed. You say
you couldn't find your wallet
and had to walk home in three
feet of snow? Is that all that's
troubling you, girlie?

Cheer up, you forgot! Have
a caramel.

Class Periods

by Margaret McCaffrey

French:

I apostrophe when I should
ague
I hope this doesn't happen to
you!
I use "le" when I should use
"la"
And often cry, "Please help me
Ma."

Art:

Potential Rembrandts all of us
How we work and how we fuss.
Grandma Moses you've had
your day,
Other artists are on the way.

Geometry:

What can one do with geo-
metry?
This for certain is beyond me.
Side angle side equals side angle
side.
It's silly rule I can't abide.

English:

Accents, syllables, this is for
me,
I learned this language when I
was three.
It's true I spoke at an early
age,
Still I'm not renowned as an
English sage.

Lunch:

Munch, munch it's time for
lunch.
A chance to sit with a happy
bunch.
The skinny ones with their
hearty meal,
While I must munch on a lemon
peel.

History:

It really seems a loss of time
To waste this Plato mind of
mine
On things that happened long
ago,
They sure put on a "crummy"
show.

Religion:

One subject that I do enjoy,
It sure makes sense, I'm not
acting coy.
Oh Lord, I'm sure You'll under-
stand
A siesta now would be just
grand.

Latin:

I read of Latin recently,
That it's so concise, but not to
me,
That crazy mixed up Caesar
fighter
Has finally made me five pounds
lighter.

Merry Christmas

Reds and Greens In Yuletide Scene



Dressed "a la mode": Eleanor Yurelich, Marian Kearney, and Rita Cannon preview new piano piece.

The young modern of today
is very creative and this is evi-
denced by her choice of fash-
ions. During this festive
Christmas season she can be
found bustling along in the
crowds that stream from door
to door of the department
stores.

In one store, she sees on dis-
play a blouse especially de-
signed for the Christmas season
bearing a cheery red inscrip-
tion saying "Merry Christ-
mas." On the next counter
she sees a dazzling display of
delicately and finely wrought
jewelry, just right either for
giving or receiving as presents.

It's "the glaze look" that
she sees in another part of the
store. Imagine gold "glaze"
as lipstick and nail-polish!
Gold for the lips and fingertips
as well as in jewelry.

She can sense Christmas in
the air as she passes the per-
fume counter and sniffs the
delicate and spicy fragrances
of "Silent Night" and "Christ-
mas Rose."

In the sweater department
she envisions herself in the lux-
urious bulky knit sweater that
she can't wait to see under the
Christmas tree. For casual
wear, the fluffy light periwinkle
blue hooded sweater is sure to
fill the bill.

The pretty holiday look in
skirts, she notices, is both in
merry red and soft green. All
styles and sizes can be found,
the most predominant style
being large and small pleats.

Dresses in every imaginable
mode are found on the numer-
ous racks she scans. The most
striking are those in the empire
and harem styles. Festive win-
ter whites and icy blues score
a hit for those holiday parties.

As she leaves the store feeling
satisfied with her choice of fash-
ions, the young shopper finds
that her funds have dwindled
down to practically nothing,
but it's all in the holiday spirit.

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Varsity Wins 3; Loses 1



Action reaches peak: Captain Eileen De Soye makes a basket for final goal.

Xavierites' school spirit was clearly shown when a record number of students crowded into the St. Angela Hall gym for the opening game. The seating problem was so great that the words of the familiar cheer "Now that they're here, what will we do?" fit the dilemma perfectly. As a result, many of the team's supporters spurred on their team with loud and spirited cheers from the outside looking in. Despite this and the excellent work of the team, St. Angela had the 3 points which determined their victory of 46-43.

The second game of the season had more favorable results. Playing on their home court, the guards with their precise passing and the baskets scored by Eileen De Soye, our Captain, and Joan Gardella brought the team to their first victory. With a score of 56-48, St. Francis was declared winner over Bishop McDonnell.

The following Friday we saw another win in the game with St. Joseph's. The fast plays of three of the new "rookies", Marie Macca, Mary Lang and Pat O'Hara helped to complete the score of 48-36. It was at this game that we were introduced to our new mascot, Francois, a very French pink poodle. Perhaps, he will keep us on our winning streak.

Xavierites, once again entered the gym, anxiously hoping for a third victory. The score was kept close by St. Saviour's. But, the fast work of our guards especially "rough and ready" Carol Ritter, kept the ball on our side of the court and we finally emerged champions with a final tally of 56-42.

Holy New Year

C.I.P. Ends Session

One of the Academy's seniors, Vivian Rizzo, received public commendation as an outstanding young journalist at the concluding exercises of the Fourteenth Annual School of Journalism, conducted at Cathedral High School in New York by the Catholic Institute of the Press, Nov. 10.

Other seniors who received certificates upon the completion of the eight weeks course are: JoAnn Castelli, Lurana McLoughlin, Arlene Cleary, Mary O'Donnell, Frances Minichello, Rosalie Trentacoste, Vivian Bozzo, Geraldine Cronin, Hedwig Fleishman, Regina Iacona, and Patricia Matthew; and juniors Jo Ann Bacon, Marion Boden, and Ann Nardella.

Juniors, Seniors Visit Colleges

Seniors and juniors have visited many local colleges during the past two months to enable them to decide on the college that they will attend after completing their high school course. They have toured buildings and participated in the curriculum of classes.

Both the seniors and juniors spent the afternoon of Nov. 21

at St. Joseph's College for Women. From a full program, the girls were able to choose two classes which they attended. Many selected the French Composition, English Composition, and Child Psychology classes. After classes a guided tour of the building and campus was provided and a play was staged by the dramatic students of the College.



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